


# Alberta Adventist News

DECEMBER 2013

Where  
is GOD?  
now



MISSION  
M68

+ IRON  
SHARPENS  
IRON

# Administering Grace

Shortly after accepting a Conference position, my president sent me on a reconciliation mission. Unsure of what to do, he advised, “Go administer grace.”

What an assignment! But the same mission is assigned to every child of God. No matter how messed up, our work is to bring hope and wholeness - not arguments or judgments, but forgiveness and encouragement.

Don't misunderstand, the commandments are important; they reflect God's character, health laws promote strong bodies, and standards reflect Christian lifestyle. But when people mess up, it's appropriate to administer grace.

Jesus did it all the time and still does. The paralytic was a paralytic because of his lifestyle, yet Jesus administered grace. What sweet words, “your sins are forgiven,” and then, “take up your bed and walk.” No lecture, but grace. He healed the man at the pool of Bethesda without retribution, only cautioned him with “Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” To the woman caught in adultery He probed, “Where are your accusers?” “Nowhere,” she asserted. Then she heard His astonishing words, “neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.”

Administering grace does not excuse the wrongdoer. There is accountability, but there must also be hope - more than deserved. Nor is it cheap. The price is heavy - very heavy - and Someone paid it.

Administering grace is a God-thing. Consider Hebrews 4:14-16. Three great facts emerge. We have a great High Priest - His name is Jesus. He understands us perfectly - having battled temptations like we do - only greater yet without yielding. As a result, we can come boldly to the throne of grace.

If that is God's treatment toward us, then as Christ's ambassadors

how do we administer grace?

Perhaps a personal experience can illustrate. As a lad growing up on a farm, what more fun than to throw stones! My dad had one unbendable, inexcusable rule: “never throw stones at people, animals, or buildings.”

One summer day when I was ten, mom, dad, sister and I stopped at the neighbour's place to arrange to borrow a farm implement. I scurried off to find my friend Johnny. We looked for something quick and exciting to do and the barnyard offered the perfect opportunity. The yard, hidden from view yet packed with stones, had a lightning rod on the barn roof that proved an irresistible target. After all, lightning rods are neither people, animals nor buildings!

---

***We have a great High Priest  
- His name is Jesus. He  
understands us perfectly -  
having battled temptations  
like we do - only greater yet  
without yielding.***

---

My first throw proved disastrous. As the stone left my hand, my eye traced its path and instinctively I knew the target was destined. There was the sound of tinkling glass as the insulator shattered.

My dilemma: to tell or not to tell! To tell meant consequences I dreaded. Johnny's advice was tempting; say nothing, no one would know the difference. But my conscience would.

The car horn sounded, and the moment of decision had come. I dragged myself to the car while a battle raged inside. Almost imperceptibly I stammered, “Dad, I have something to tell you.” Every conversation stopped, every head swivelled in my direction, every eye burned through me. What

could a ten year-old boy have to say of such importance? “Dad, I was throwing stones and I broke the glass bulb on the lightning rod.” Silence! Then dad spoke. “Son,” the words stung. How could he call me “son” after this? “Son, I'll take care of it.” And I watched my dad proceed to pay for my disobedience with all his money and promise to bring more.

I deserved a punishment. I deserved to lose whatever money I had. But I knew I could never pay for it. What's amazing though, once paid, dad never mentioned the incident! For me it was over - gone forever!

Years later, before dad passed away, I mentioned it to him, but he had no recollection of it. I tried to unearth mom's memory, but it was blank.

Is God's grace like that? My sins are forgiven, God's atoning sacrifice is applied, and maybe in the new earth even the memory is released. Only the scars in Jesus' hands reminds us there was a price for sin.

Dad, rather than administering punishment, which I deserved, administered grace. Maybe that's what our heavenly Father would have us do too. I'm thankful my president said, “Go administer grace?”



Ken Wiebe  
President  
Alberta Conference

# Highlights

Is a publication of the  
**Alberta Conference**  
**Communication Department**

5816 Highway 2A  
Lacombe, AB  
T4L 2G5

Phone: **(403) 342-5044**  
Fax: **(403) 775-4482**  
E-mail: **info@albertaadventist.ca**  
Twitter: **albertasdaconf**  
Facebook: **ABAdventist**  
Website: **www.albertaadventist.ca**

Office Hours:  
Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Administration

Ken Wiebe      President  
Larry Hall      Secretary/VP for  
                         Administration  
Keith Richter    Treasurer/VP for Finance

Cover photo Photodune.com  
Other images contributed

## Submission Guidelines

[www.albertaadventist.ca/communications](http://www.albertaadventist.ca/communications)



## God's Great Outdoors

Each year students in grades 5-9 have the opportunity to spend three days encountering God through varied activities in His amazing creation.



## Adventurer Fun Day

One event that is always lots of fun is the Alberta Conference sponsored annual Fun Day.



## Nothing but the Gold

The weekend was about bringing us closer to our Creator and building friendships that last a lifetime.

## Index

- 2 Message from the President
- 4 ADRA Canada
- 5 Devotional: Heaven's Language
- 6 Resolving Everyday Conflict
- 7 It Is Written Canada
- 8 Where is God Now?
- 10 Department News
- 29 PAA
- 30 Church News
- 38 Means and Meaning
- 39 Announcements

# Typhoon Haiyan: Canadian Donors Respond

You've probably seen some of the shocking Typhoon Haiyan footage on TV, heard the number of casualties on the radio, or seen pictures of destroyed villages online. However, it's hard to imagine the reality of a situation without experiencing it for yourself.

When you sink into the comfortable cushions of your clean couch, or sip the savory soup you've warmed in your microwave oven, it is hard to imagine the discomfort, hunger, and thirst that many Filipinos are experiencing even now, weeks after Typhoon Haiyan.

Consider the story of Merlyn Bayo, a mother of five children living in Panay



Wide-angle of destroyed homes, with one standing home in the background. A typical scene in the aftermath of the Typhoon Haiyan – only the strongest structures were able to withstand winds blowing at up to 300 km/h. Many families huddle in makeshift shelters made from the debris of their former homes.



Funded in part by generous ADRA Canada supporters, this ADRA field worker was able to present Merlyn Bayo (on right) with much-needed food supplies!

Municipality in Capiz Province. Three of her children are still in primary school, and the other two work as domestic helpers in Capiz. Her family lives along the coast in Buntun, Panay. Their main source of living is fishing and selling the seafood they catch.

Of the 600 houses in Merlyn's coastal barangay, or village, only the residential home of the Mayor was left standing after Typhoon Haiyan.

When authorities warned the community about the coming dangerous storm, her family evacuated about 3 kms inland to a safer location. Merlyn's friends and neighbors also took shelter, and thankfully, none of them perished in the storm. Their homes were not as fortunate. After extreme winds destroyed their homes, they had nothing to eat and no safe drinking water. Their boats and fishing nets, their means of earning a livelihood, were destroyed. Even the school was not spared—the simple structure folded and twisted in the wind, and all educational materials were lost or ruined.

Merlyn and her friends waited for three anxious days before relief finally arrived. ADRA was the first relief agency on the scene, and distributed food to more than 600 families in Panay. The ADRA food packs arrived just in time: the food that Merlyn had managed to scavenge from the wreckage of her home was almost completely gone. ADRA continues to provide food to these families, and will do so until a more permanent, reliable food supply becomes available.

Today, ADRA Canada continues to help Typhoon Haiyan survivors through a coordinated ADRA Network response. ADRA Canada's generous supporters have sponsored the distribution of nutritional food baskets, water kits, and hygiene kits to 3,560 households, along with educational materials on hygiene and sanitation. Shelter kits have been distributed to 5,450 households without a roof overhead.

Finally, ADRA Canada has also partnered with GlobalMedic, a

Canadian organization with an operations office in the Philippines. GlobalMedic and ADRA Canada have partnered in a relief operation on Cebu and Panay Islands (including Iloilo) that is targeted at providing clean drinking water. They already have a large water purification unit in operation, and are preparing a site for another large water unit. The relief personnel have also loaded food into trucks dispatched to an operational base in Tacloban. Finally, some team members are providing medical care, while others are distributing millions of water purification tablets.

Given the scale of this disaster, relief efforts in the Philippines will be long and costly. Please remember that ADRA Canada donations for Typhoon Haiyan relief qualify for a \$1-to-\$1 match provided by the government of Canada until Dec. 23, 2013.

On behalf of Merlyn, and thousands of other people in her situation in the Philippines, we here at ADRA Canada want to say a huge "thank you" to those who have extended their hands to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

*For more information about ADRA Canada's Typhoon Haiyan response, please visit [www.adra.ca](http://www.adra.ca) or join us on Facebook (ADRA Canada) or Twitter (@adracanada).*



Ryan Wallace  
Communication Specialist  
ADRA Canada

# Heaven's Language – Are You Learning It?

It was only two weeks ago that Pastor Ken Wiebe, our Conference President and I were walking buddies while attending year end meetings in Oshawa. I would tell my wife about how impressed I was with Pastor Ken's physical condition. I was literally exhausted by the time we had finished because it was tough keeping up with him.

How shocked I was to have Pastor Ken call me last Monday to tell me he was in hospital being checked out for a possible heart attack which was subsequently confirmed. The good news is he is now recovering fine and will be minimizing some of his work responsibilities and physical activities for a while but will be gradually resuming full responsibilities in approximately one month.

Our apparent healthy condition today is no guarantee our status will be the same tomorrow. For those of us en route to the Promised Land, it therefore behooves us to be sure we are walking with Jesus today. Ellen White wrote these sad words about a class of people who were granted many long years of life but miss out on eternity. "Years of probation were granted them that they might form characters for heaven. But they have never trained the mind to love purity, they have never learned the language of heaven." G.C. p 543

My wife and I were driving home from church one Sabbath when her cell phone rang. On the other end our eldest daughter was crying and trying to tell us something. Immediately, I sensed there was a problem and my mind began to speculate what her next words might be as I pulled off on the shoulder of the highway. Finally, she said amidst her violent sobs, "there's been an accident" and I can still hear the fear in my wife's voice as she said "oh no - what happened? Tell me what happened? Is everyone okay?" It seemed like an eternity before she finally said, "Yes, we



The mighty Skeena River.

are all okay" - referring to her husband, her sister and brother-in-law. Then she proceeded to say, "My little doggie, OZARK, is gone. We think he drowned."

As bad as this news was, I breathed a great sigh of relief and proceeded to comfort our daughter. She then explained to us what happened. Her and her sister along with their husbands were canoeing down the mighty Skeena River in northwest BC when they found themselves caught in the vortex of a whirlpool. Their canoe flipped and all four were thrown into the swirling 15 feet deep waters. Three of them quickly made it to shore while our oldest daughter, now caught in the raging waters, desperately tried to hang onto her little doggie with one arm and swim with the other. After being sucked down into the deep waters, she realized she had to make a difficult decision - let her dog go to try and save herself. Before she could make that decision however, the powerful current sucked the dog out of her arms and immediately she swam ashore to join the rest of the team.

It broke my daughter's heart to explain how she tried to hang on to OZARK, the little dog that she reared from a pup and was almost like a child to her. How then must Jesus feel when we reject His arms ever stretched out to save His drowning children? In the *Great Controversy* between good and evil the stakes

are much higher! We have an enemy, who is constantly - 24/7 - trying to tear us from the loving arms of Jesus and prevent us from ever learning the language of heaven, even after we choose Him as our Saviour. "Satan will constantly present allurements to induce us to break this tie (with Jesus), to choose to separate ourselves from Christ. ... But let us keep our eyes fixed upon Christ and He will preserve us. Looking unto Jesus we are safe." S.C. p 63

I like the way the apostle John described it in John 10:27-29, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

This is incredible good news for us amidst the vicissitudes of life! No matter what happens - even death - nothing can separate us from the hands of the most loving Being in the Universe IF you choose to listen to His voice and learn the language of heaven.



Larry Hall  
Secretary / VP for Administration  
Alberta Conference

# Resolving Everyday Conflict

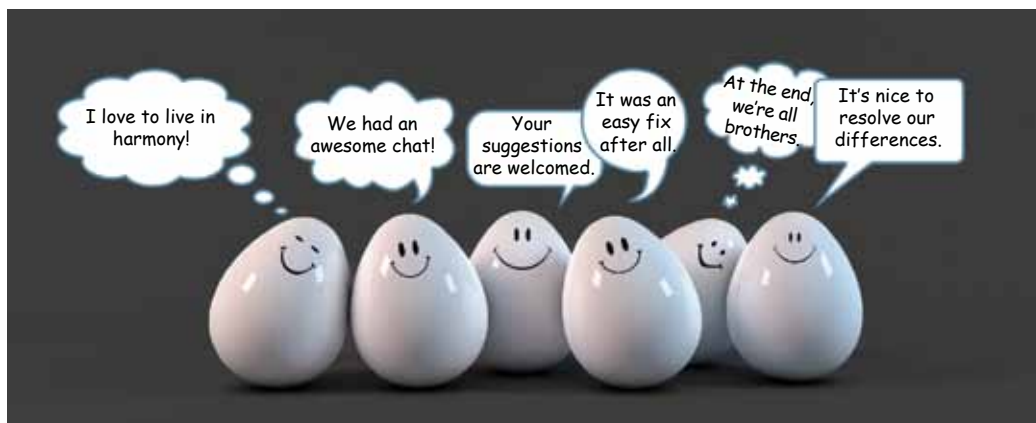
**“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)**

As individuals with different needs, ideas, beliefs, values, and goals, conflict is an unavoidable and complicated phenomenon. While there are numerous definitions and explanations of conflict, I suggest that conflict occurs where there is an absence of peace.

We experience conflict everyday of our lives at all levels of society. Conflict can exist between two or more people, across organizations, and internally within one’s self. Ultimately, conflict is tension between individuals or organizations that share interdependence with each other and who disagree on an issue that threatens their belief system, goals, or values in some way.

Perception is an important aspect of conflict that becomes the root of tension in most cases. In the book, *Working Through Conflict*, Folger, Poole, and Stutman (1997) argue that individuals in conflict “perceive that they have incompatible goals or interests” (p. 4). A lot of the time people’s perceptions are inaccurate or misinformed and conflict could be avoided through better communication and greater understanding of the issue, individual, or circumstance. In the book, *Mediating Dangerously: The Frontiers of Conflict Resolution*, Cloke (2001) makes an important statement regarding perceptions and conflict management: “Our conflicts begin and end with us . . . they have little to do with our opponents” (pp. 8-9). Our perceptions and attitudes toward other people and ourselves are responsible for most conflict we experience.

Solomon, in the book of *Proverbs*, has a lot to say about conflict that can help us deal with and reduce the conflict in our personal and professional lives. In *Proverbs 20:3* Solomon says, “It is to a man’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.” Notice, it doesn’t say you should ignore strife; it says you should avoid it. If there is friction in a relationship, you have to deal with it. Ignoring it will not make the problem



go away. You have to work to resolve it. However, you’re much better off if you can avoid the conflict altogether before it becomes a problem. I want to suggest three ways from the book of *Proverbs* that will help you handle conflict. Some of these ideas will help you avoid conflict, others will help you resolve it. Either way, it will reduce the amount of stress in your life and maximize your relationships.

**1. Delay your reaction.** *Proverbs 14:29* says, “A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.” A delayed reaction will give you time to evaluate the situation, and help you determine if it really is worth discussing. Maybe after thinking it over you will realize that you over-reacted. Maybe you’ll discover you didn’t have all the facts. Maybe you’ll discover that things weren’t what they seemed to be.

**2. Say it gently firmly.** When you’re in conflict with another person, you don’t have to put heat on your words in order to have impact. We need to keep in mind what Solomon said in *Proverbs 29:11*, “A fool gives full vent to his anger but a wise man keeps himself under control.” If you’re having conflict with someone, say what you need to say. Make an effort to say it gently - you don’t have to be mean about it. And make an effort to say it firmly without threats or ultimatums, simply tell the other person

your perspective on the problem - *Proverbs 15:1*, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

**3. Strive for a solution.** If you want to resolve the conflict in your life, you have to be willing to stop dwelling on the problem, and begin focusing on a solution. Solomon said in *Proverbs 15:18*, “A hot tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.” Strive for a solution to conflict. You don’t have to keep reminding the other person what they did wrong. Once they have taken steps to make peace, you have to be willing to let it go.

There they are, from the book of *Proverbs* and still relevant for today, three ways to help you resolve everyday conflict.



Troy McQueen  
Communications & IT Director  
Alberta Conference



## Now Airing on CTV Twice a Week

In November 2013, the Windsor Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted It Is Written Canada for a Countdown to Life seminar. In spite of a few chilly evenings, the attendance was great and quite steady. The meetings resulted in many decisions for Christ and 20 baptisms altogether, with at least four more people getting ready for baptism in the next few weeks. The Windsor series closed our evangelism calendar for the year but the mission of bringing people to Jesus is our ongoing responsibility.

A few weeks earlier, during the evangelistic meetings It Is Written Canada held in Belleville, Ontario, six precious souls were baptized. There are at least 30 more people actively studying the Bible with a keen desire to learn more of God's

plan for their lives. Throughout the 14 meetings of the Countdown to Eternity seminar, the average number of visitors in attendance was 26, and some of them never missed a single presentation. That's amazing for a 70-member church.

One of the most stirring experiences we live, as part of the ministry of It Is Written Canada, is to see people surrender their lives to our Saviour Jesus Christ and publicly affirm their faith through baptism.

I am thrilled to inform you that It Is Written Canada is now airing on CTV across the country twice a week, at no additional cost. This is such a blessing! I find that this second airing will cater to viewers spending the night hours looking for something on TV. They will now have a very good choice in It Is Written Canada.

As mentioned previously, these times are in addition to our weekly national broadcast on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m., local time, coast to coast in Canada!



*It Is Written Canada, a television media ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada is maintained through the sacrificial donations of our supporters and is committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ first and foremost to the people of Canada, but also to the whole world through national and international television programming, Bible Prophecy Seminars, and the development of resources to support church evangelism.*

### Here are the show times:

<b>CIVT, British Columbia</b>	Sunday at 4:00 a.m.
<b>CTV Saskatoon</b>	Friday at 5:00 a.m.
<b>CFCN, Alberta</b>	Friday at 4:30 a.m.
<b>CFRN, Alberta</b>	Thursday at 4:30 a.m.
<b>CKY, Manitoba</b>	Sunday at 5:00 a.m.
<b>CFTO Ontario</b>	Thursday at 4:30 a.m.
<b>CKCO Ontario</b>	Sunday at 4:30 a.m.
<b>MCTV Northern Ontario</b>	Friday at 5:00 a.m.
<b>CJOH Ontario</b>	Sunday at 4:00 a.m.
<b>CFCF Quebec</b>	Saturday at 4:30 a.m.
<b>ATV Atlantic</b>	Saturday at 4:00 a.m.



**Evaldo Vicente**  
Director of Music and Donor  
Relations for It Is Written Canada

# Where is GOD? now ■

Story by Doug Hill

Going to church as a child was rancorous for me. Not because I hated it, or because mother forced me to go, or even that I didn't want to accept Jesus, but because of the ridicule I received from my father

when I got home. I longed for dad's acceptance and approval but his reaction wounded me so deeply I withdraw from church and religion. I developed a self-protective indifference to Jesus' love; distancing myself from the source of the pain between my father and me. I was distraught if caught attending church, thinking most people

would react like him. Since my parents held opposing views on religious issues, our home was in continual turmoil which fostered in me a distaste for Christianity and a rebellious spirit towards a God who was aloof and uncaring. I challenged the effectiveness of God's involvement with the human race, resisted His plan for me and

chose instead the path of the agnostic.

As an adult I buried myself in the busyness of everyday life. I was a husband, a father and an employee and allowed these responsibilities to consume all my time. I knew I was really trying to distance myself from God so that I could silence the constant promptings of the Holy Spirit. I became irritated and enraged, argued philosophically and defied anyone to a debate when challenged to commit my life to the Lord. Inside, I knew these were only diversionary tactics to derail the real issues but my Lord patiently continued to work on my heart. The miracles of the births of my sons, the love of a woman who valued me despite my short-comings and the prayers of my mother and loved ones began to work on my disillusioned soul.

After my parent's divorce, I haughtily challenged my mother's faith one day with, "Look at all the trials you suffer. You serve your God so faithfully. Where is He in all this?"

As I left her apartment and attempted to get my family into the car, my toddler, who had the exasperating habit of running off, got away from me. Around the car and out onto the street, he darted, right into the path of an oncoming vehicle. The brakes locked, the car skidded, struck him and knocked him down. But thanks



Doug Hill with his son, Sean.



***“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”***

### ***Proverbs 22:6***

to the Lord’s intervention, my son was pushed forward by the locked front wheels and not crushed by rolling tires! Here was the Lord’s answer to my cynical question, Where is God?”

Despite this miracle, it took many years of the Holy Spirit’s gentle wooing, along with countless prayers, to bring the truth of my internal conflict to a head.

to help. I am ashamed of my ugliness and how I spat at those around me!

God is patient and has perfect timing. I desperately longed for something that would provide value and meaning to life! This yearning was the tender prompting of the Father calling this prodigal son back to the “fold.” About this time I received several DVD’s and as I listened to the messages, God

began to open my mind and heart.

God was answering prayer and He began to change my life. Then He provided a friend to guide me.

My friend asked if I wanted to receive Jesus Christ into

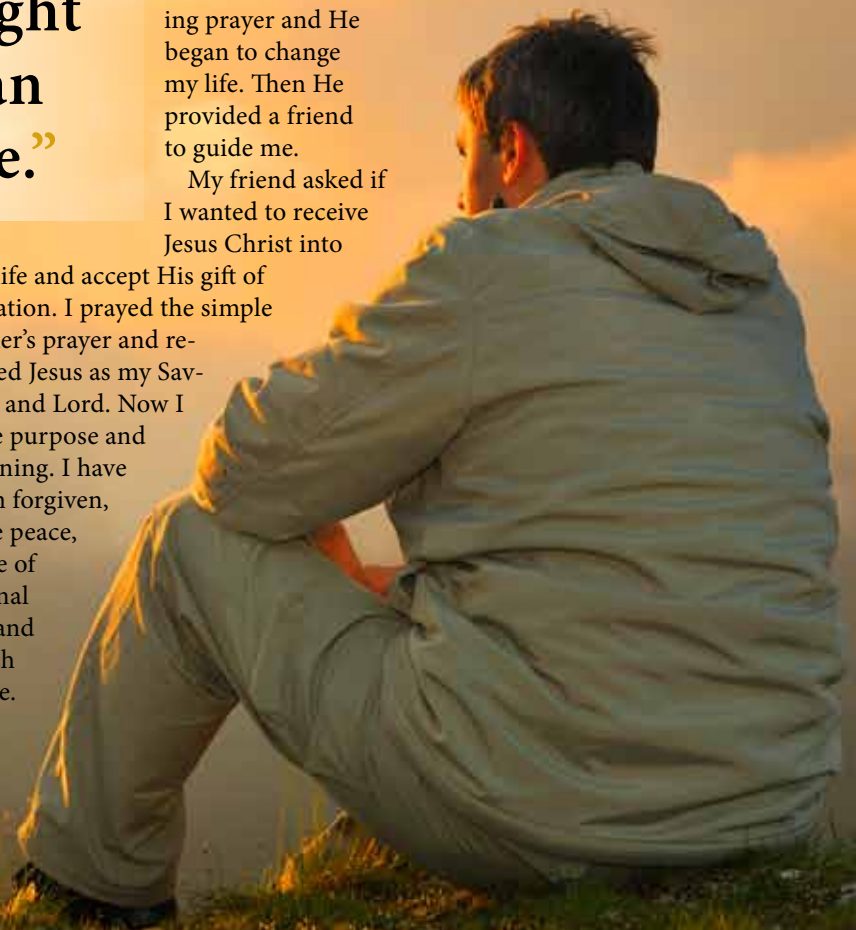
Every day I experience and enjoy Jesus Christ as my wonderful Saviour, my great Shepherd and my all Sufficiency.

*Doug Hill is president of a condominium board and vice-chair of the High River and District Health Care Foundation in Alberta. Previously he was a Training Officer for the Calgary Light Rail Transit System. He currently facilitates a Sabbath School class in the Calgary Central Church.*

**“My son darted right into the path of an oncoming vehicle.”**

Three questions forced themselves into my consciousness: why am I here, what is the meaning of this life and where am I going? My life, with “I” in control, could not answer these questions and left me feeling empty, without purpose and un-fulfilled. It haunted me and fed my darkness, driving me into hopelessness and despair. It consumed my whole life and I will forever regret how my negative attitude affected those I love and respect. In my anger and hopelessness I lashed out at those who only expressed concern and wanted

my life and accept His gift of salvation. I prayed the simple sinner’s prayer and received Jesus as my Saviour and Lord. Now I have purpose and meaning. I have been forgiven, have peace, hope of eternal life and much more.



# News

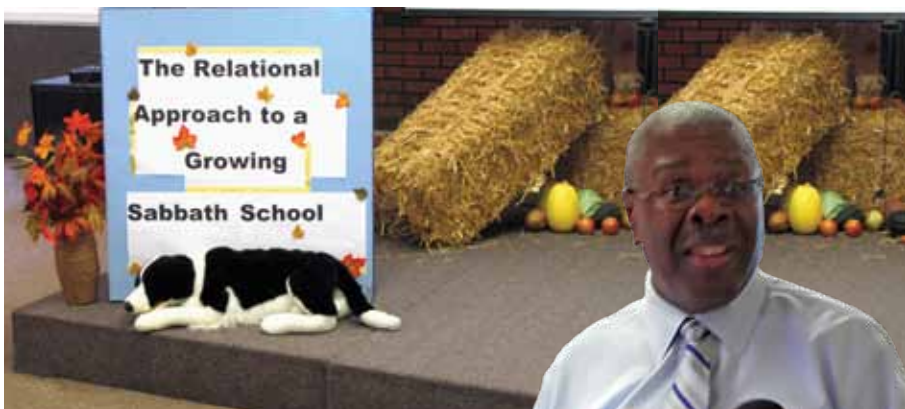
## Sabbath School Convention 2013

The 2013 Sabbath School Convention entitled, “The Relational Approach to a Growing Sabbath School” took place at Foothills Camp, October 25-27, 2013. Alfred Johnson, NAD Adult Ministries Director, shared about how to grow churches through Sabbath School. He emphasized that Sabbath School classes are to be places where we are responsive to people and their needs and learn to better know our Heavenly Father together. Brian Wahl, BC Conference Youth Director, enthusiastically shared ways to reach and encourage youth and young adults through Sabbath

School. Being a true friend who cares is what many youth are looking for and youth and young adult Sabbath School classes can meet that need. Other weekend activities included: challenges and rewards, excellent food and fellowship, plus “Lessons from the Sanctuary” with teachers, Ed Rice and Leo Reimche. Sunday morning was a sad end to a truly inspiring weekend as attendees faced the challenge of driving home in the first snowfall of the year. — *Darlene Reimche, Sabbath School Director, Alberta Conference* [dreimche@albertaadventist.ca](mailto:dreimche@albertaadventist.ca)



Brian Wahl, BC Conference Youth Director.



**Bottom left:** The Relational Approach to a Growing Sabbath School. **Bottom right:** Alfred Johnson, NAD Adult Ministries Director.



Group gathered for SAGE RV Weekend.



Keith Leavitt talking to the group.

## SAGE RV Weekend

Alberta Conference senior church members have banded together for service... and times of relaxation. Adopting the SAGE Ministry—Seniors in Action for God with Excellence, numerous projects have been attended to in the past year. Renovations to the Drumheller Adventist Church and grounds work at Foothills Camp are their recent accomplishments. They have also adopted Mamawi Atosektan Native School and have been found working there.

The first weekend in May is designated as an annual convention weekend for SAGE, held at the College Heights Church. Accomplishments, plans and goals, and fellowship will highlight the convention. SAGE is not a closed ministry, but rather is open to all Alberta members age 50+.

After work, comes rest. Approximately 30 RV units and their occupants showed up at Miquelon Lake (35 kms southeast of Edmonton) on September 13-15, 2013 for a time of refreshing and relaxation. On Sabbath, Keith Leavitt shared insights from his work. The RV weekend was an exciting time of fellowship in God's beautiful outdoors.

For more information, visit the SAGE website at [www.sagealberta.ca](http://www.sagealberta.ca).



Students from the Asia Aid Deaf School in south India.

There have been several attempts to start an Adventist deaf school in North America, but all have closed. However, there is a small Adventist deaf school at Kisii in western Kenya. There is another being built by the SULADS Adventist student missionary movement in Mindanao in the Philippines. We are working to help raise funds for the building of both schools. A third Adventist deaf school with approximately 100 students (mostly non-Adventist) is being successfully run by "Asian Aid" at Kollegal in South India.

There are many facets to having a deaf child. We have only covered a few. If you would like to know more, or have a deaf child, please contact us.

Pastor and Mrs. John Blake,  
*Alberta Conference Deaf  
 Ministry Department*  
 PO Box 308, Clive, AB  
 T0C 0Y0  
 (403) 784-3798  
 email: [blake@deafhope.org](mailto:blake@deafhope.org)  
 Website: [www.deafhope.org](http://www.deafhope.org)

## Challenges of a Deaf Child

Our middle daughter, Judy, had a high fever with chicken pox at the age of three months. My wife began to notice that things were different after this sickness. We began to do some simple sound tests and it looked more and more like Judy was deaf. At nine months, a brain scan during a sound test confirmed that she was profoundly deaf.

What is a parent to do? How do you relate to a deaf child? How will they relate to the family? What about their schooling? Questions began to swirl through our heads.

At first, we were told that Judy should be able to learn to lip read and talk. My wife got a special course and tried to work with Judy. We took Judy to a special teacher, but after two or three years, Judy could only clearly say four words. We moved to a town where my

wife could take a specialized course in teaching the Deaf, and Judy officially started Kindergarten. Everyone in the family began to learn sign language.

Later, we adopted a deaf boy to be a companion to our deaf daughter. We tried to start an Adventist school for the Deaf, but it proved too difficult. We then moved to Arkansas and worked with a small Adventist school there.

We learned that deaf children face many obstacles, but can learn and may advance as far as they want to go in school. Perhaps the most difficult challenge is - how will they learn about Jesus and the plan of salvation? There is very few Adventist material for deaf children. An inter-denominational organization, "Silent Blessings" ([www.silentblessings.org](http://www.silentblessings.org)) now has three seasons of a Christian TV program for children.



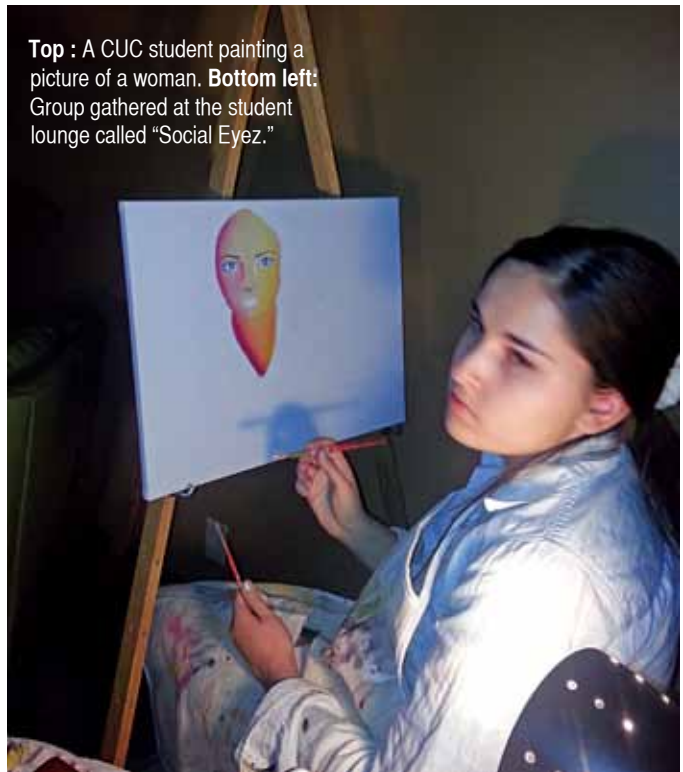
Pastor John Blake  
 Deaf Ministry Department  
 Alberta Conference

# When Disaster Strikes...Don't Send Old Shoes

When disaster strikes, leaving behind devastation and pain, we immediately want to help. And it's true, in the case of the recent Typhoon Haiyan disaster; survivors need a lot of help. The question we need to ask ourselves is, "What kind of help is best?" In fact, inappropriate donations can actually do more harm than good. For example, after the 2004 South Asian tsunami, well-intentioned people cleaned out their closets, sending boxes of old shoes and other clothing to the countries. Heaps of donated used items were left lying on the side of the road. Cattle began picking at these items and became sick. Civil servants had to divert their limited time to eliminating the unwanted goods. Unfortunately, well-meaning people repeatedly respond in unsuitable ways. And so, the answer is simple...the best way to help is by giving money to agencies that are able to articulate what the actual needs are and transparently tell you how they are responding. ADRA, the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, understands the current situation at the ground level and the needs of disaster survivors. Please consider an online donation to ADRA Canada today, as this is the fastest, most efficient way of supporting any relief effort [www.adra.ca/donate](http://www.adra.ca/donate).



Photo by ADH/Zanettini.



Top : A CUC student painting a picture of a woman. Bottom left: Group gathered at the student lounge called "Social Eyez."

## ACT I (Artists Coming Together)

What started off a year ago as a simple conversation of ideas and a vivid imagery between Dane Alexandre (a third year psychology student) and Lyle Notice became a live and living color program.

On October 26, 2013 ACT I (Artists Coming Together) took place on the Campus of Canadian University College at the student lounge called "Social Eyez." ACT I is an initiative to help create a sustainable environment that brings artists together to support one another in developing, expressing, and honing their craft.

Something special was happening. It was art displayed on the backdrop of a crisp Alberta evening portrayed through the form of song, music, poetry, and spoken word. It felt like it was a place where people could express who they were at the deepest core with #nojudgement.

With over 80 people in attendance, words rolled off tongues from passionate poets, notes resounded off the walls as guitars were strummed and even at one point you could see an artist painting a picture of a beautiful woman. ACT I is just the first scene of many ACTS to come...stay tuned for ACT II. — *Lyle Notice*





Adventurer Fun Day activities at CUC.

## Adventurer Fun Day

I'm excited to share with you some information and photos of the Adventurer Ministry activities and events happening throughout Alberta. The Lacombe Adventurer club has enrolled over 20 members this year and there is still room for more. If you know of families with children ages 4-9 years old who would like to be a part of a ministry that helps bring them closer to each other and to God, please encourage them to join. The Adventurers Ministry also offers community and church service opportunities as well as field trips and other fun activities. One event

that is always lots of fun is the Alberta Conference sponsored annual Fun Day. This is a time where all the Adventurer clubs in Alberta have the chance to get together. This year the Fun Day was held at the CUC PE Complex where Adventurers were able to swim, tumble and rock climb. Thank you CUC for letting the Adventurers use your gym, pool and rock wall. Interested new members and clubs can contact Director Donelle Clarke for more information at [kndclarke@gmail.com](mailto:kndclarke@gmail.com).  
— Donelle Clarke  
*Adventurer Ministries Coordinator*



# MISSION M68

When you're in war, when you're in battle, when you're in the trenches and you're facing all kinds of difficult terrain...one thing that helps you keep on fighting is having a mission. When you have a mission you essentially have a purpose. Having a purpose helps you to focus on the task at hand, to finish successfully.

This year's Alberta Conference Youth Retreat was entitled, "MISSION M68."

Our mission as Christians is to fulfill the directive given to us in the book of Micah 6:8, "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

Guest speaker Pastor David Guzman from Andrews Theological Seminary, focused on not getting side tracked by the world. Guzman stated, "What is it if you have everything except Jesus... and if you have Jesus you should share Him with everyone you know." There was also an emphasis on the idea that Christianity is nothing without



Pastor David Guzman getting ready to speak to the youth.

Christ and his mercy for us. Since Christ has shown us mercy how much more should we learn to love mercy and love being merciful to others?

On Saturday evening, everyone gathered for sports, games and social time at the Foothills Camp gym. It started off with some youth playing soccer with all-star player Pastor Guzman who had some killer moves and then it moved to



Pastor David Guzman leads out in special prayer for the youth.

a four on four basketball tournament. At the end of the night, four youth from Calgary won the tournament with crazy cross overs, daring dunks and some sharp shooting. The four Champions won a signed NBA basketball from Jerome "Junkyard dog" Williams.

They came, they saw, and they learned about the MISSION of M68. — Lyle Notice

## Warmth, Compassion and Quality Care



2020 Brentwood Boulevard N.  
Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 0X1  
(780) 467-2281  
www.sherwoodcare.com



Sherwood Care is owned by Adventist Health Systems - Alberta

## Bridgeland Church Welcomes 13 New Master Guides



*Never Alone* was the theme for the weekend.



Group at ASAM weekend.



Sabbath School lesson presented by Ed Rice.

### Lacombe Happenings 2013 – Adventist Single Adult Ministry (ASAM)

The snow was falling and the wind blowing but that did not keep people from attending the Adventist Single Adult Ministry (ASAM) weekend event called *Lacombe Happenings* that was held at Casey's Cabin, in Lacombe on November 15-17, 2013. Speakers, Tennyson Samraj, Nwamiko Madden, Leo Reimche and Ed Rice, encouraged and inspired all to remember that God never leaves us alone. Several weekend highlights included a Sabbath afternoon walk in the snow, delicious food and plenty of fellowship with other single adults. — *Darlene Reimche*

Under the leadership of the Alberta Conference Master Guide director, Tendai Mashonganyika; the Bridgeland Cimarrons Director, Griffin Webster and the Deputy Director, Karen Massiah, 13 Pathfinders graduated to the level of Master Guide on October 19, 2013 at the Bridgeland Church in Calgary.

It was an exciting event for everyone present. All 13 candidates looked sharp in their Master Guide uniforms. Each one talked with dignity, held their heads high, and walked humbly before the congregation knowing that it was Christ their Master who had guided them through this process.

The Northern Alberta Area Coordinators, Glenn and Diane Hawthorn were present to assist in the ceremony. Glenn spoke with humor and passion about “What it means to be a Master Guide” and Dianne presented the Pathfinder Leadership Award to each candidate. The Alberta Conference Pathfinder director, Lyle Notice, concluded the program with an inspirational message to all the Master Guides exhorting them to remember that God is counting on each one to be a leader within their church and community. Reynold Ferary, the Senior Pastor of the Bridgeland Church closed the ceremony by offering a special prayer of dedication for all the Master Guides. — *Lyle Notice*



Lyle Notice and Tendai Mashonganyika.



Lyle Notice  
with Jeremy  
Satnik.



Newly minted Master Guides.

# “Iron Sharpens Iron”

## Men’s Ministry Convention



Pastor Ishmael Ali



Pastor Ian Bramble



Pastor Virgil Covel



Pastor Warren Kay



Pastor John Murley

Hugh French, Volunteer  
Men’s Ministry Coordinator

an enhanced spiritual life can actually reap very unexpected rewards. Pastor Warren Kay presented a new look at the Prodigal Son story as he introduced attendees to “The Prodigal Father” and how God lavishly pours out His love on us. In conclusion, on Sunday morning, Pastor Ian Bramble spoke to the men, challenging us to invite the transforming power of God into our lives.

*Pastor Murley was given the topic of “Why Men’s Ministry?” and focused on the need for men to redevelop true courage.*

Attendees were very appreciative of the event and very excited over the future prospects of the ministry. On the final day of the convention, a feedback and planning session, entitled “So, Where Do We Go from Here?” was held. The purpose of the session was to get feedback from the attendees on the convention that was just ending and to find out how they would like the ministry to develop post-convention. Their participation was excellent and even resulted in the formation of a new Men’s Ministry in the Sylvan Lake Adventist Church, as two of the attendees volunteered to spearhead the effort. Plans are underway for regional conventions in Fort McMurray, Edmonton and Calgary. A strong Men’s Ministry can only strengthen our churches, the family, marriages and our communities. — *Communications Department*

The Men’s Ministries department of the Alberta Conference recently held its first convention since 2007. The convention (themed “Iron Sharpens Iron”) was held Friday, September 13-15 at the Best Western Plus Chateau Suites hotel, Sylvan Lake Alberta.

The decision was made not to bring in a speaker from outside the Alberta Conference but to utilize the talent that we have in our own “back yard.” As such, Pastors John Murley, Ishmael Ali, Virgil Covel, Ian Bramble and Sylvan Lake’s Pastor, Warren Kay accepted

invitations to be presenters on various topics. Pastor Murley was given the topic of “Why Men’s Ministry?” and focused on the need for men to redevelop true courage. He also looked in depth at the transitioning from boyhood to manhood and the differences between the two. Pastor Ishmael Ali presented on the subject of “Being a Godly Man” in today’s world. Pastor Virgil Covel presented “Respect: Men Getting What They Deserve.” His presentation had an unexpected focus as it looked at the importance of prayer and spirituality in a man’s life, and how





Clockwise: Grades 5-6 CHCS team, CHCS Jr. High team, Stacy Hunter talking with players.



## Nothing but the Gold

Touchdown! The crowd goes wild! You know the feeling, the victor heroically spikes the ball into the ground...well it was sort of like that.

People familiar with College Heights Christian School (CHCS) know very well that it is a busy place. There is all sorts of fun events throughout the year that CHCS attends or organizes. One of my personal favourites happened on October 17, 2013; a football tournament.

For as long as I can remember, the junior high football team has driven ten hours across the mountains to participate in the FCAA tournament held in Kelowna, BC. Thanks to Stacy Hunter, VP of Student Services at CUC, that changed this year when he decided to organize a local football tournament.

Adventist schools from across Alberta and British Columbia were invited to participate. In the end, four schools

attended the tournament with students ranging from Grades 5 to 12.

Everyone arrived at the CHCS gymnasium at about 6 p.m. on Friday, October 17. We had a delicious dinner and met some new friends while getting reacquainted with old ones. There was a vespers program that evening before falling into our beds at about 9:30 p.m. Some of us never slept, we just lay awake staring and dreaming of the day ahead.

The next day, as the sun set ending a great Sabbath, there was a mixture of excitement and nervous energy affecting nearly everyone: the players, the coaches and the parents. Even the referees were excited. The games began at the Composite High School field at 7:00 p.m. and continued at the CUC field all day Sunday until 5:30 p.m.

Everyone played extremely well resulting in some spectacular games. By the

end of it, all athletes were getting tired, although no one was going to admit it. CHCS came out the winners in the B division (junior high school). In the A division (high school), Peace Christian School won against PAA, who rallied a close second. For the Intro league CHCS got both first and second place with our two teams from grades five and six.

Earlier that day I overheard someone rhetorically ask, "What else could a teenager want? There's music, friends and free food!" He was answered by one of his teammates who replied, "Nothing but the gold!"

All kidding aside, that wasn't what the weekend was really about. It was about bringing us closer to our Creator - God, and to build friendships that last a lifetime. With that being the purpose, we were all winners. — Submitted by Julia Self (Grade 7 student at CHCS)

**Allan and  
Fernanda Perez**

“Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust Him, and He will help you.” (Psalm 37:5 NLT) Allan Pérez, Youth Pastor for Red Willow Community Church (in St. Albert) believes that “if we accomplish the first step—committing everything to God, then His purposes will become a reality for us.” Pastor Pérez came to Montreal from Honduras in 1996 with his family, and later moved to Edmonton. He studied theology in Costa Rica from 2008 to 2011. After employment for one year as a Bible Worker at Red Willow, he became their youth pastor in June of this year. Allan enjoys soccer and reading, but not right now, as his mind is focussed on his upcoming wedding. On December 8, Fernanda and Allan will be married. They will work as a team to build a strong, spiritual, and committed youth group who are willing to make a difference in everything they do. Abundant blessings to this new team as they serve Christ in St. Albert.



**James and  
Chiara Wesley**

“God is someone you have to deal with and when you start to listen to Him, you have to deal with it!” says Pastor James Wesley, who began working in the Airdrie and Olds districts on September 1, 2013. Pastor Wesley bases his philosophy on: “For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” (Hebrews 4:12 NLT) He also believes that God is reading him more than he is reading God. Along with a new pastoral assignment, Pastor Wesley is also enjoying the new role as “husband.” He and Chiara Stellacci were recently married. Together they will work to expand God’s kingdom. James is also teaching Chiara to skate and share his love of hockey. God’s blessings as you serve Him together.



# New Pastoral Placements



**E. Lawel Natufe**

E. Lawel Natufe was born in Ottawa, ON. He began his Pastoral Ministry in January 2000 in the Caribbean, and has served the Adventist Church over the past 13 years in various capacities as Senior Pastor, Conference Director and Evangelist. Effective July 1, 2013, Pastor Natufe

joined the Alberta Conference as the Assistant / Youth Pastor for the Calgary Bridgeland Church. In this capacity, he continues to pursue his passion daily by challenging and empowering people to experience their full potential in Christ. His hobbies include traveling, target shooting, jet-skiing and playing pool. One of his favourite scriptural passages is Romans 11:5-6. This text keeps him grounded in the glorious reality that God’s calling on His life is an act of amazing grace whereby God can save him and use him as a medium of others’ salvation. As such, Pastor Natufe has dedicated his life fully to the gospel ministry.



**Oscar Halvorson**

“Great is Your (God) faithful-ness!” rings clear and strong in Pastor Oscar Halvorson’s ears since the death of his father 18 months ago. (Lamentations 3:22-23) Pastor Halvorson and his wife, Kate, and children, Austin—5, Everley—3, Eden—1, have set down new roots with the Edmon-

ton South Church family, since July 1, 2013, as Assistant/ Youth Pastor. They formerly enjoyed the warmer climate of the Oliver/Osoyoos, BC area, but are no strangers to northern climates. Oscar was born and raised in northern BC. As a family they enjoy off-roading and like to travel to Spokane to visit family. Pastor Halvorson wants to continue to enlarge and develop a healthy and vibrant youth ministry with the Edmonton South’s youth members. He agrees with Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase that states, “God’s loyal love couldn’t have run out...How great Your faithfulness! I’m sticking with God...He’s all I’ve got left.” (*The Message*)



### Ralph and Sharon Ellison

Pastor Ralph Ellison and his wife, Sharon came to Alberta November 1, 2013 after pastoring for 12 years in Saskatoon. They both share conversion experiences which led them to ministry. Ralph and Sharon believe that the Holy Spirit will never leave them and will lead them to all truth (see John 14:16-17) as they work to enlarge the churches in the Drumheller, Hanna and Loyalist regions of Alberta. As a child, Ralph grew up in Stettler, so with this assignment he is returning to his central Alberta roots. Prior to becoming a pastor in the fall of 2001, Ralph worked as a contractor. He brings much expertise to his churches. If time can be found, Ralph may check out the local golf courses in summer. God go with you, Ralph and Sharon.

### Richard Means

“It’s all a God thing!” says Pastor Richard Means, who began his work as Youth and Assistant Pastor at the Calgary Garden Road Church on March 1, 2013 after graduating from Andrews University. Pastor Means did not grow up as a Seventh-day Adventist or aspiring to be a pastor, but now is daily reminded that it is by God’s grace alone that he is able to participate in ministry. “Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart” (2 Corinthians 4:1) validates his gratitude. His goal is to share his passion for God with the youth and young adults in his church...“to inspire them to have a vibrant relationship with God and learn not to allow distractions to the call of God.” He also has a heart for evangelism...reaching people not yet exposed to Christ. Pastor Means balances his life with reading and racquetball. We welcome him to Alberta and pray for God’s mercy and grace to surround him.



### Roberson Dorelus

Roberson Dorelus is a new theology graduate from Canadian University College and has recently been appointed as Assistant Pastor at the Edmonton West Church on October 1, 2013. Pastor Dorelus is a native Floridian and is passionate about incorporating the youth of his church in out-reach ministry. “When you do out-reach, you succeed in ‘in-reach’ and bring people to Christ throughout-reach,” says Dorelus. Sounds cyclical to me... which is what it should be! Pastor Dorelus admits to worry just a bit but holds Jeremiah 29:11 close to his heart. “I (God) know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.” “He’s got everything under control,” says Dorelus. In his spare time, you may hear his drums rolling or see him dribbling a ball down the soccer field. Sounds like Edmonton West is in store for some great activity. Continue, Pastor Dorelus, in God’s safe and secure control.

### Rodney and Jenny Davis

Pastor Rodney Davis and his wife, Jenny, are praying that through their ministry in Sherwood Park, God will strengthen the membership in their walk with Christ. Pastor Davis said that they desire to “build up the reputation of the Sherwood Park Church as a caring organization in the community and see many people come to faith in Christ as a result.” Philippians 1:6 holds promise and assurance: “And I am convinced and sure of this very thing, that He Who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ, developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.” Pastor Rodney and Jenny began pastoring in Alberta September 1, 2013 after moving from St. Thomas/Woodstock, ON. They have one adult son, age 22, living in Calgary. In his spare time, Pastor Davis enjoys skiing and golfing.





**Shantel Smith**

“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go,” (Joshua 1:9) is the scripture that propels Shantel Smith forward in ministry. Pastor Shantel was recently appointed as Assistant Chaplain at CUC and Assistant Pastor for the College Heights Church on September 1, 2013. While a student at Andrews University seminary, Shantel developed and directed “The Stoplight Project”—the first Seventh-day Adventist response to human sex trafficking overseas that works directly with women and children who are being trafficked or at risk for being trafficked. She continues to direct the project along with her pastoring duties. Pastor Shantel is overseeing the mission and outreach portions of the CUC Chaplain ministry. She was born and raised in Toronto, ON. In her spare time, she likes to develop ideas for ministry, read, and spend time with friends. Her primary vision for working in the college community surrounds the idea of “unity in diversity with intentionality.” She works intentionally to “build, support and empower the multi-cultural community on campus, and introduce methods of inclusion without assimilation.”



Pastor Issachar Garsula (Calgary M.E.T.R.O Filipino & Parkdale) lent his insights in small group discussion and general comments from the floor.



Delegates get a new perspective from Pastor Reed Richardi, House Church coordinator from the Potomac Conference.



President Ken Wiebe presides over the Round Table's activities.



Dr. Liliya Wagner, NAD representative, and President Ken Wiebe lend their insights to the discussion.

Photos by John McDowell.

## Reports, Goals and Blessings at EXCOM Retreat

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a complex, intricate and dedicated organization of which you and I are a part. Structures, personal and committees are in place for the governance of the approximately 11,000 members in Canada's sunniest province, Alberta.

EXCOM (Executive Committee) is a committee of 18 members composed of persons representing our Alberta churches. Conference personnel, employees, and laypersons meet together four times throughout the year to direct the work of reaching Alberta and the NWT with the distinctive Christ centred Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness. EXCOM has adopted five core values reflected in REACH: Revival and transformation, Education for discipleship, Alignment within the church, Community outreach and evangelism, and Healthy leadership and management. With the exception of the President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer, committee members may only serve for two terms or eight years. EXCOM members participate in an annual retreat where business is attended to in a more relaxed setting. This year's retreat happened at Foothills Camp, October 18-20. The worship portions of the weekend were led by Dr. Tennyson Samraj, SDACC President Mark Johnson, Pastor Shantel Smith, and President Ken Wiebe. There was time planned for socializing, outdoor activities, and of course committee work. — *Communications Department*

## Round Table on Church Building Solutions a Landmark in North American Division

On September 29, delegates from 20 congregations who are considering building or renovating their own church facility came together at the Alberta Conference's invitation to discuss their challenges and ways to meet them. The day that began with "alumni reunion" appointments for churches who'd attended the Alberta Adventist Fundraising Schools in January brought together 88 participants at the Lacombe Memorial Centre. It was noted by the North American Division representative as an important first in North America.

A guest panel comprised of representatives from Maranatha International, Dr. Lilya Wagner (Director of the NAD's Philanthropic Service for Institutions), Reed Richardi (home churches coordinator of the Potomac Conference), as well as the president, secretary, and treasurer

of the Alberta Conference, were on hand to present fresh perspectives and answer questions. Eric Rajah of A Better World contributed his experience in working with communities of limited funds via a pre-recorded video message. Members of the Executive Committee, elected by the constituency, acted as small group facilitators as well as participants.

"For our congregation," said Blackfalds delegate Andrea Sayler, "Reed Richardi was very useful. He spoke to our situation—a small company struggling with growth and where to go. Questions we'd had for years about how to better reach Blackfalds were addressed. It re-energized us. It was a great community- and church-building experience." As a result, the company that meets in a United church is revising the way it ministers and incorporating house church concepts.

Don Corkum, a former president of the Alberta Conference and delegate at large, closed the general discussion from the floor with this observation: "Sometimes it is hard to have perspective on the importance of a meeting. I have been in denominational work for almost 50 years as a pastor and conference worker. I have been in many discussions on the importance of facilities for churches. This is the first time in my experience that the conference leadership and churches needing facilities have come together to study possibilities and potential resources."

Lilya Wagner, NAD representative, who has more than 25 years of fundraising experience around the world, commended President Ken Wiebe on his visionary initiative, which was also unprecedented in her experience, and which she viewed as extremely useful. — *Lynn McDowell*

## Calgary Church Planting Rally a Success

On September 14 over 170 people attended afternoon seminars held at the Calgary Central Seventh-day Adventist Church that focused on how to be more effective expanding God's work. Calgary has 198 communities with an average population of 7200 and to date only 15 have an Adventist church presence. So far in 2013, three new churches/companies

have been organized in the Calgary area: Northwinds Church, Sudanese Company and Cornerstone Community Church. If a goal was set to plant a church for every 25 000 people, then Calgary would need 40 churches. That's 25 more church plants.

There is a work to be done. Praise God that over 40 individuals expressed interest in participating in a new church out-

reach in the City of Calgary. The Alberta Conference has targeted eight towns/cities with a population of 10 000 or more in the hopes of developing an Adventist presence: High River, Okotoks, Chestermere, Cochrane, Cold Lake, Beaumont, Stony Plain and Fort Saskatchewan.

— *Don Corkum, Church Planting Director, Alberta Conference*



Calgary Northwinds Church.



Calgary Sudanese Company.



Cornerstone Community Church.

# SAGE

## Alberta Adventist Heritage Tour

SAGE Alberta is excited to announce a marvelous opportunity available to SAGers (50+). You are invited to take part in an upcoming tour which will explore our Adventist Heritage from Battle Creek to New England sites (October 9 – 24, 2014). The 16-day tour begins at the Toronto airport. Tour price includes: deluxe coach travel, accommodation in comfortable hotels, average of two meals daily, group vegetarian meals, all admission fees, guide to all historic sites, tips and gratuities, and specially prepared guidebook materials.

The tour size is limited to 50 participants. Alberta SAGers have the first opportunity to reserve their spot and are encouraged to book early because in February, 2014, advertising will be extended Canada-wide.

This unique tour for SAGers is administered and operated by SAGE Alberta and will be led by travel coordinator, Keith Clouten. The itinerary includes a variety of Adventist heritage sites as well as many other sights and experiences all set against the backdrop of a brilliant-colored New England fall. **TOUR PRICE:** From Toronto Airport, all inclusive: \$2100.



Left: William Miller's house restored, nearby Ascension Rock. Right: Miller's birthplace sign.

### Some Adventist Heritage Highlights:

- Re-live the excitement – and the disappointment – of the Millerites as we visit William Miller's restored farmhouse, nearby Ascension Rock, the Chapel, and Miller's grave.
- Sing the old Advent hymns in the little Washington church in the woods of New Hampshire and be spellbound by stories of the pioneers who once worshiped there.
- Explore the living museum that is Advent Pioneer Village in Battle Creek, Michigan, including the White family home and a replica of the first Battle Creek church.
- Tour the world headquarters of the Adventist Church and the Ellen G. White Estate at Silver Spring, Maryland.

### Some Bonus Highlights:

- See the Mayflower II at Plymouth and visit a re-creation of the early pilgrim colony at nearby Plymouth Plantation.
- Observe the Amish and their fascinating culture at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- View the dramatized story of Moses at the star-rated Sight and Sound Millennium Theater at Strasburg, PA.
- Be awed by the power and beauty of Niagara Falls.
- Visit the campuses of Andrews University, Washington Adventist University, and Atlantic Union College.
- Enjoy a day touring sites in Washington, DC.

To obtain an information packet, please contact Darlene Reimche at (403) 342-5044, ext.206. Questions about the tour can be directed to Keith Clouten at [clouten1@telus.net](mailto:clouten1@telus.net) or Ellen Bell at [bell.ellen3@gmail.com](mailto:bell.ellen3@gmail.com) or phone (403) 782-2730.

## Report from the Ministerial Department

**Evangelistic series that have recently taken place in the Alberta Conference:**

- Yellowknife Church by Pastor Ed Dunn.
- Edmonton West Church by Pastor Rick Howard.
- Edmonton African Fellowship by Pastor Chiwena Cabanje.
- Calgary Adventist Bethany French Company by Pastor Lawel Natufe.
- Strathmore Company by Pastor Ghenadie Girleanu.
- Blackfalds Company by Landon Saylor.
- Calgary Northwinds Company by Pastor Honey Todd.
- Onoway Church by Pastor Michael Corbel.
- Stettler Church by Pastor David Beaudoin.
- Fort Saskatchewan - a new area that is being entered - by Pastor Darrell Beaudoin.

### **New pastoral placements:**

- Pastor James Wesley - Olds and Airdrie churches.
- Pastor Lawel Natufe - Assistant / Youth Pastor for Calgary Bridgland Church.
- Pastor Robison Dorelus - Assistant Pastor for Edmonton West Church.
- Pastor Shantel Smith - Assistant Chaplain at CUC and Assistant Pastor for the College Heights Church.
- Pastor Rodney Davis - Sherwood Park Church.
- Pastor Ralph Ellison - Drumheller, Hanna and Loyalist churches.
- Pastor Allan Perez-Ortiz - Assistant Pastor at Red Willow Community Church.
- Pastor Jonathan Geraci - Assistant Pastor at Edmonton Central Church.
- Pastor Oscar Halvorson - Assistant / Youth Pastor at Edmonton South Church.
- Pastor Richard Means - Assistant Pastor at Garden Road Church.
- Pastor Dan Wilson - (Starting February 1) Grande Prairie Church and Grande Prairie Lighthouse Company.

### **New pastoral assignments:**

- Pastor Adam Deibert - Chaplain at CUC / Associate Pastor at the College Heights Church.
- Pastor Stephen Reasor - Bentley and Rocky Mountain House churches, Blackfalds Company.
- Pastor Myles Gillespie - Chaplain at College Heights Christian School and Parkview Adventist Academy.
- Pastor Darrell Beaudoin - Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant.
- Pastor Virgil Covell - Nebraska Conference as Ministerial Director.
- Pastor Shawn Brummund - Lethbridge Church.
- Pastor Ian Hartley retired from the Red Deer Church.
- Pastor David Streifling retired from the Drumheller, Hanna and Loyalist district.

## Jesus, My Friend



Briana Hill publicly declared Jesus as her "Forever Friend" and was baptized at the College Heights Adventist Church on September 7, 2013. She was pleased that her uncle, Pastor Ken Crawford, was able to officiate at this special occasion.



Kaelyn Trenchuk was baptized by Pastor Victor Gill at the Smoky Lake Adventist Church on August 17, 2013.



Sebatién Charbonneau being baptized by Pastor Randy Barber at the Calgary Central Adventist Church on April 27, 2013.



# God's Great Outdoors

Canoe lesson from Mr. Kiers.



Creatures to study.



Heading out for adventure.

Each year students in Grades 5-9 in Alberta Seventh-day Adventist Schools have the opportunity to spend three days encountering God through varied activities in His amazing creation. Where better than in Alberta? Planned programs are: Outdoor School for Grades 5-6 in May, River Expedition for Grades 7-8 in September, and Outdoor Education for Grade 9 in September. These events take place in three different settings in central Alberta and are directed by one of Alberta's youth leaders, education department staff, teaching staff, parents, and other skilled volunteers.

Approximately 100 Grade 7-8 students spent time canoeing on the Red Deer River, testing PH, phosphate, and temperatures of the water, September 16-18, under the direction of Kevin Kiers and Scott Sackett. Everyone participated in set up and take down of camp, and making one's own meals. Creating analogies and spiritual connections was a meaningful highlight at the end of each day.

While the Grades 7 and 8 paddled canoes, Grade 9 students rotated through four activities: rappelling down a cliff and over a large overhang, canoeing on Goldeye Lake, completing a historical hike, and participating in "The Grade 9 Amazing Race" which was based on orienteering skills. In all events, students encouraged each other to succeed and there was a strong sense of camaraderie. Thank you to Janet Griffith, Janet Hall, and each participating Grade 9 teacher for your vision and dedication in making this a meaningful experience.

During the last week of September, the Outdoor Education class from College Heights Christian School went backpacking at Cline River. Even the falling snow did not dampen their excitement as they travelled toward their destination. For the majority of the students, this was their first experience backpacking, so there was a steep learning curve on how to efficiently pack their backpacks, hike up and down





Where did it go?



Is this the matching specimen?



Do you think we got that right?

hills, and be prepared to survive in the wilderness. The first day involved a 7 km hike into a large group campsite by the river. While some students were convinced that their 30 pound packs were actually 100 pounds, they all maintained positive attitudes and kept marching along the trail. In the evening, students learned to set up a bear cache, filter water, and chop firewood. The second day included a 10 km hike through snow and washed out trails that had students and teachers clambering over fallen trees and rocks from the heavy spring flooding. The pristine forest scenery was well worth the difficult trek. The third morning thoughts of home, warm showers, and homemade food motivated the students to pack up their wet tents, cook their oatmeal in the chilly mountain air, and load up their packs for the long hike back. — *Special appreciation to Rachel Miranda (CWAA) and Jai Dubyna (CHCS) for providing the information above*

# Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada



## *Excellence in Education Awards 2014*

**Nominate  
your Adventist  
school principal  
or teacher**

*Deadline April 15*

Forms can be found on CAT~net:  
<http://catnet.adventist.ca>  
under Resources - SDACC -  
Excellence in Education Award  
or you may call the  
SDACC Office of Education at  
905-433-0011





## Mamawi Atosketan Hosts First Alumni Basketball Game

On September 26, 2013, Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) hosted its first alumni basketball game. Alumni, both past students and teachers, played current junior high and senior high students, who worked hard and showed excellent sportsmanship as well as excitement at the opportunity to play for their families, friends, and teachers.

When college student Joshua Saddleback was asked why he came back to play, he responded that he wanted to give back to the school. "It's better to inspire than to be inspired," explained Saddleback, a disciplined athlete and body builder who will play for the Edmonton Huskies inter-collegiate football team next year. Chance Buffalo, another alumni student, told staff that he was willing to come back any time to help out in any way he could, because he wants to set a good example for his younger brother, who is a current MANS student.

The event was well-supported by MANS parents and the community as well.

All Sports Cresting of Lacombe donated team t-shirts for the alumni team, and Constable Wallace of the Ponoka RCMP detachment as well as three CUC students came to help coach and support the event. Miss Betty Anne, a retired teacher's assistant who worked at Mamawi for 19 years, came back as an honorary coach for the alumni team. Jim Baker of Lacombe took pictures of the game, while his wife, Kelly, a former Mamawi teacher, played on the alumni team.

One of the goals of the event, according to organizer and MANS' full-time PE teacher Janice Clark, was to use MANS' enhanced PE program to strengthen connections between school, student families, and the local community. The alumni event is clearly a successful strategy for furthering that goal. — *Communications Department*

## Mannville High School Students Take Charge of Their Health

After participating in a Health Expo during the summer of 2013 in Camrose, Nola Yaceyko, one of the directors of Family and Community Support Services in Mannville, orchestrated a similar event for the Mannville community (located approximately 170 km east of Edmonton). The Personal Ministries Department of the Alberta Conference worked closely with Ms. Yaceyko to have a one day expo for Mannville's high school students and their teachers—approximately 50 participants in total.

At each NEWSTART station the participants gathered personal information and data, learning how their health is affected by lifestyle choices.

Here's how the stations at the Mannville Health Expo looked:

**Nutrition:** Information regarding weight and fatty foods was provided.

**Exercise:** This station consisted of taking the Harvard Step test and heart rate measured.

**Water:** A bottle of water and water remedy information were provided.

**Sunshine:** Blood pressure was taken and recorded.

**Temperance:** Individual body mass index (% of body fat) was calculated.

**Air:** A Peak Flow Meter test measured the lung capacity against a standard.

**Rest:** Each one received a short chair massage.

**Trust:** Participants were given a calculation of their health age from the information gathered at the previous stations. Recommendations were made to each person as to how they could increase life expectancy by making targeted lifestyle changes.

Students, along with their teachers, had a clear understanding that health is not something left entirely to chance. For more information or to host a Health Expo in your area, please contact Pastor Sandra Silva at [ssilva@albertaadventist.ca](mailto:ssilva@albertaadventist.ca) or phone (403) 342-5044, ext. 216.





Mamawi Atosketan  
Native School alumni  
basketball game.

Photos taken by Jim Baker of Lacombe.

# Teacher's Convention Sparks Renewed Enthusiasm

Teachers in the Alberta Conference participate annually in advancing and growing their careers collectively and individually. This year's teacher's convention was held in Lacombe from October 7 – 8 and focused on three major areas: renewed enthusiasm for teaching, Mathletics, and the concept of a “flipped classroom.”

Everyone, from time to time, needs to have their life and/or career fire lit or relit. This year's convention provided opportunity for teachers to be inspired to re-enter their classrooms with renewed enthusiasm and energy...teaching children the love of reading, regardless of the content area. Danny Brassell of Staff Development for Educa-



L to R: Janet Griffith, Danny Brassell and Janet Hall.

tors, did just that. Inspiring, teaching, encouraging!

Mathletics is an online e-learning platform where students can interact with other students from all over the world. Students can access a custom pathway through curriculum materials, with explicit teaching sequences built into the support sections. Each student can work at their own pace, over a range of topics, and access structured support when they need it. Mathletics was introduced to Alberta Seventh-day Adventist schools three years ago. It also includes learning activities for Spelling, Reading, and Science. Debbie Nordstrom, Mathletics presenter, refreshed those familiar with the program and enlightened new-comers about the many features of Mathletics.

Two PACeS teachers, Lori MacDonald and Danielle Rochford, attended a “flipped classroom” workshop this past summer. They were given time at this year's convention to share what they had learned. In a “flipped classroom,” students listen to a pre-recorded online video outside of class time (probably at home), where their own teacher instructs a given lesson. The student can repeat the lesson as many times as needed with no pressure or embarrassment. In class, the student then completes an assignment and can access individual help as required for reinforcement. Janet Hall, Associate Education Superintendent for the Alberta Conference, stated that the “flipped classroom” has numerous possibilities and might be especially helpful in a multi-grade scenario.

Teachers returned to meet their students with transformed energy and inspired hearts.

— Linda Steinke, *Education Communications*

## Llew Werner Joins the Alberta Conference Staff

Llew Werner has returned home—to Alberta, most recently from Doha Qatar (a small country in the Arabian Gulf near Saudi Arabia) where he was working with the Qatar Foundation on the development of a new teaching and research hospital. His expertise will be focussed in two primary areas for the Alberta Conference.

As Foothills Camp Director, Llew will oversee day-to-day management of the camp. He will also lead the development of a new master plan for Foothills Camp, including facility requirements, and other campus changes to position the camp to

meet future service expectations. “Life is changing and we have to change with the times,” he stated.

As Project Development Officer for the Alberta Conference, he will work closely with the Alberta churches on facility development and building projects, to provide support and guidance for the project lifecycle.

Llew is married to Attaleen (Hanson) and they have two adult sons. After acclimatising to Alberta's crisp winter, Llew and Attaleen look forward to “sunny Alberta” weather and motorcycling with a side car. We welcome Llew and Attaleen to the Alberta Conference.



Llew and Attaleen Werner.

# Dauntless: PAA's Traveling Ministry Team

In November, Dauntless, Parkview Adventist Academy's traveling ministry group, visited the Rocky Mountain House Church and the Bentley Church as well as College Heights Christian School in early December. Dauntless is made up of ten students from across Western Canada who preach, sing and perform religious

skits. They will visit several Alberta churches and schools this winter and then travel to Manitoba and Saskatchewan at the end of April. Dauntless communicates the message to young people today that it's exciting to be a Christian youth and raises awareness of the opportunities at Parkview Adventist Academy.



James Remocal from Winnipeg.



Dauntless at CUC.



Brigitta Gesaputri from Lacombe.

## JUNIOR HIGH SCIENCE FAIR

Parkview Adventist Academy is hosting their annual Junior High Science Fair on February 13, 2014. All schools and students in Grades 7-9 are invited to participate. This is always a fun event for everyone.

Daniel Self - a winner at the 2013 PAA Science Fair. He received \$400 for his work on "Boyd's Law".

Meaghen Domaschuk - a winner at the 2013 PAA Science Fair. She received \$400 for her work on "The Life of a Diabetic".

For more information and to receive an application kit, please contact Pattie Reasor at preasor@paa.ca or call (403) 782 3381, ext. 4120.





Left: Newly elected officers of Filipino-Canadian Adventist Youth of Alberta (FILCANAYA). Right: Filipino Adventist Youth from numerous Alberta Seventh-day Adventist churches.

## Adventist Youth Organize Filipino-Canadian Group



Young Seventh-day Adventists with a Filipino background formed an organization to improve social and spiritual networks with other youth in Alberta.

Ron Yabut, pastor of the Edmonton Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church, presented the idea of an official group for the young people during the 2013 Filipino-Canadian camp meeting held at Foothills Camp. Yabut was inspired by the number of young people attending the camp meeting and hoped that being organized would break the “walls among them ... to accomplish their common goal for the glory of God and His church.”

Yabut said that FilCanAYA is not separate from the Filipino-Canadian Seventh-day Adventists of Alberta (FCS-DAA). “Both [groups] will work hand in hand ... to encourage each other for the Lord ... and to bring more souls to Christ.”

To start the work, 47 members of four churches from Edmonton and Calgary elected the first set of FilCanAYA officers on September 21, 2013, in Calgary Northwinds Seventh-day Adventist Church:

**President:** Maggie D. Orcajada, Calgary Southside Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Vice President-Religious (Community Outreach):** Lady Dianne Bondoc, Calgary Parkdale Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Vice President-Religious (Music Ministry):** Franz W. Chavez, Lethbridge Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Vice President-Social (Events):** Conjaveny Dave D. Sulite, Calgary METRO Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Secretary:** Krystell N. Brillon, Edmonton Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Treasurer:** Danille Martha Mae P. Paglomutan, Calgary Northwinds Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Public Information Officer:** Lyre L. Orcajada, Calgary Southside Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In an online meeting, the officers assigned the position of Vice President-Religious (Spiritual Affairs) to Hersea P. Napod of the Red Deer Seventh-day Adventist Church. FilCanAYA’s advisers are Yabut and Brandon Aquino, a student of Religious Studies at Canadian University College. Maggie D. Orcajada said that the first year will focus on knowing each other better and developing camaraderie. FilCanAYA events will include sport tournaments, church visitations, and mission trips.

### About FilCanAYA

The Filipino-Canadian Adventist Youth of Alberta is an organization that aims to connect Adventist youth in Alberta with each other, with their communities, and with God through social and spiritual activities. On the web: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FilCanAYA>. — Lyre L. Orcajada, Public Information Officer, Filipino-Canadian Adventist Youth of Alberta [filcanaya@gmail.com](mailto:filcanaya@gmail.com)

# Celebrating with Pastor Massiel Davila

A spirit of dedication and celebration were felt as Pastor Massiel Davila was officially commissioned by the Alberta Conference on Sabbath afternoon, October 5 at the College Heights Adventist Church. This service was an acknowledgement of her divine appointment as a minister of the gospel and to authorize her to function as a fully licensed pastor. It was

a privilege to be a part of this special occasion, reaffirm her spiritual gifts and support her ongoing ministry. — Submitted by Marcia Hill



Photos by Laurence Wong.



## Vegreville Hosts Health Expo

On September 29, 2013 the Vegreville Adventist Church hosted a community Health Expo. Many of the volunteers came from other churches to help service the stations. A total of 45 people went through the Health Expo. Two of the participants included a mother and her seven year old daughter. When they came through the counseling station and were each given a bible, the little girl's face lit up with excitement to have one of her own.

## Sylvan Lake Church Baby Dedication

On November 9, 2013 Jessi-Rae McAfee was dedicated by Pastor Warren Kay at the Sylvan Lake Church. Present for the service were parents Devon & Melissa, big brother Cole, grandparents, aunts and uncles. — Penny Marcinyk



Pastor Warren Kay holding baby Jessi-Rae McAfee with parents Devon & Melissa.

# Five Score and Six!

From Poland to England to Quebec on the HHS Montclare, and then by train to Leduc, Alberta. Alberta Komm arrived full of hope and promise in the fall of 1927. Despite the adjustments and hard work (cutting down trees, pulling stumps, cooking for a lumber camp, working as a house maid), she never spoke of disappointment, but strongly maintained that “Leduc was the best place in the world!”

Alberta married Fredrick Goltz on December 13, 1929. They farmed five miles south of Leduc and were blessed with two children: a son, Leo, and a daughter, June. Later the family expanded with five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Alberta only received a Grade 3 education in Poland, but advanced far beyond that. She read daily from her German Martin Luther Bible. She learned to speak and read the English language when her children attended school, which in turn allowed her to read the local paper and study her English Sabbath School lesson when her German class was discontinued. Alberta Goltz spoke five languages: Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, German, and English. She valued education for her children. Both Leo and June attended CUC and university and are teachers by profession (now retired).

Modern-day conveniences for Alberta were purchasing a Singer treadle sewing machine that sewed forwards and backwards and a motor driven washing machine. She experienced the evolution of the telephone from the dial party line phone to the corded phone. She flew in an airplane on two occasions, yet never owned a driver's license.

Anna, the only grand-daughter in the family, was often treated to candy and chocolate stowed away in Alberta's bedroom. She maintained that a “little chocolate never made anyone fat!”

A strong faith was a part of who

Alberta was. She (along with her husband) were baptized by Elder Ziprick in a cattle tank in 1931 and spoke frequently of living to see Jesus come. Alberta praised God for her long and blessed 106 years. Six months prior to her death, she walked into the Leduc Seventh-day Adventist Church to her usual pew, carrying a cane that provided more security than stability. Before sitting she always paused, bowed her head, and prayed.

Alberta Goltz died in her sleep on October 9, 2013, in Leduc, Alberta. She was born August 8, 1907, in Kolonica, Kkomunka, Poland and is survived by: son, Leo (Connie) Goltz; daughter, June Jeske; grand-children: Anna-Maria Goltz, Tim (Tina) Jeske, Dan Jeske, Ben (Shaheen) Jeske, Jonathan (Anne) Jeske and seven great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband Fred; son-in-law, Siegbert Jeske; siblings Adolf Comm, Amalia Kurtz, Juliana Marks, Emilie Komm, Emil Comm, Sam Comm, Henry Comm, and infant siblings Edith and Robert Komm. \*Spelling of the Polish family name “Komm” was changed to “Comm” when documents were filed



Top photo: Alberta Goltz ship boarding pass and passport. Bottom: Alberta Goltz at 100 years.

in Quebec at the time of immigration, to “make the name more Canadian”.

A vibrant faith testified to Alberta's strength of character. We wait with Alberta, the coming of our precious Saviour.

\*Alberta Komm was possibly the oldest Adventist member in Alberta and Canada, until the time of her death. Privacy issues don't allow us to know for certain. Please contact us if you know of an older currently living member. — Linda Steinke, *Education Communications*



# Edmonton West Church Makes Evangelism a Priority

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19, KJV)

On October 4, 2013, Pastor Daniel Lubega from Florida walked onto the platform, smiled, knelt and the congregation grew silent. This is how every night of the “Hidden Truth: What you don’t know WILL hurt you” series began. Each night of the two-week series, Pastor Lubega broke down controversial topics, such as world religions and evolution, and made it clear to anyone searching for understanding. With a strong nightly turnout, Pastor Lubega truly grasped the attention of the congregation. With

his frank and clear answers to questions, he was able to present God’s message in a manner that was relatable, but very much scripturally based. By the end of the two weeks Joy Wellington-Johnson, Caswell Johnson, Joie-Claire Tuishime, Caroline Mhlanga, Dezarae Grant, Richard Boyce, Godbless Richard, John Frank Vyizigiro, Vincent Joseph, Joel Kiggundu, Michelle Bariffe, Fafali Mawutor and Hose Kavuke gave their hearts to Christ through baptism.

With various projects on the go, including plans for a total church rebuild, the Edmonton West Adventist Church has made evangelism a priority. Even the kids are involved! In May, the Children’s Ministry

Department, led by Colleen Ellis, hosted a six-week evangelistic series with 8 speakers ranging in ages 10 to 15 years old. Speakers, Jaden Hewson, Audrey French, Moseeta Bodah, Elijah Joseph, Joel Kiggundu, Angela French and Kaydan, presented dynamic and interactive sermons. “Heavyweight Champion” and “Angels on Fire” were just a few of the messages that were shared during the series.

Pastor Terrence Horrell and the members of the Edmonton West Church are truly dedicated to the mission of Matthew 28:19 to teach, baptize and to support the growth of its members. Website: [www.edmontonwestadventist.ca](http://www.edmontonwestadventist.ca).  
— Submitted by Ayanna Griffith



Godbless Richard, Joie-Claire Tuishime, Michelle Bariffe excited after their baptisms.



Speakers from the children’s evangelistic series.



Pastor Terrence Horrell baptizing Caswell Johnson and Joy Wellington-Johnson.



Pastor Daniel Lubega.



Baptized during the evangelistic series at Edmonton West Church.

Photos by Audrey French and Pastor Sylvanus Assigbe.



Pastor Michael Corbel.

## Onoway Conducts Evangelistic Series

On November 12, 2013 the Onoway Adventist Church started a 12 day evangelistic series led by Pastor Michael Corbel. The children’s ministry leaders ran a children’s program at the same time entitled, “Truth4Youth.” Please pray for the Onoway Church as they continue to minister to the surrounding community and those who have attended the evangelistic meetings.

# Empowerment Breakthrough Seminar - Bethany French Company

It's a privilege to share with you information and pictures from the "Empowerment Breakthrough Seminar" held by the Bethany French Company on October 5-19, 2013 at the Genesis Centre in the NE of Calgary. What a blessing it was to be a part of this two week series conducted by Pastor E. Lawel Natufe. Approximately 20 visitors attended the meetings. Four individuals have already been baptized and Pastor Donald Pierre is doing Bible studies with several others. Seeds have been planted in the heart of those who attended the meetings and the Holy Spirit will find a way to work things out with them. — *Submitted by Donald Pierre*



Pastor E. Lawel Natufe



## Dedication + Energy = Sanctified Service

"As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered... The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." (James 5:11, NIV)

Valerie Letkeman counts herself blessed as she perseveres with God along her life journey. She and her husband, Ken, bring to the Leduc Seventh-day Adventist Church servant hearts and gifts of leadership.

Ken and "Val" have lived in the Edmonton area for 25 years and are both employed as property managers. The Church family are blessed to have this ministry team serve wherever God calls them through music, audio/visual

expertise, storytelling, and more.

In addition to the many roles they fill, Val was ordained as a local elder at the Leduc Church on October 5, 2013. During the ceremony, Pastor Turgott emphasized the importance of leaders in the church being filled with the Holy Spirit. "When men and women allow themselves to be used by the Holy Spirit, the church greatly benefits."

Val said, "I look forward to doing my best to lift up the arms of the pastor and all church volunteers, as we work together, doing our appointed work... promoting the work of God in our church and in the Leduc community."



Valerie and Ken Letkeman.

# Grande Prairie Church Responds to the Community

The Grande Prairie Adventist Church has been busy with outreach initiatives since the summer. Following a very successful Vacation Bible School, Canada Youth Challenge (CYC) visited the Grande Prairie Church and conducted outreach for two weeks. Since 1998, CYC has been involved in the mass distribution of drug-prevention materials that target the youth of Canada. This youth program is sponsored by the Lifestyle Canada Education Service – a Seventh-day Adventist Institution. CYC decided to stay longer than usual in Grande Prairie because they were meeting a good number of interests from the community. They discovered that many people were interested in learning more about healthy eating and living. As a result of the CYC outreach and newly found community interests, the Grande Prairie Church invited Darlene Blaney to conduct a Health and Wellness seminar followed by a Vegetarian Cooking School that was held at the Church on November 8 – 10, 2013. These programs were attended by 27 individuals - eight from the community. Plans are being made to have a follow-up Vegetarian Dinner Club for those who participated.

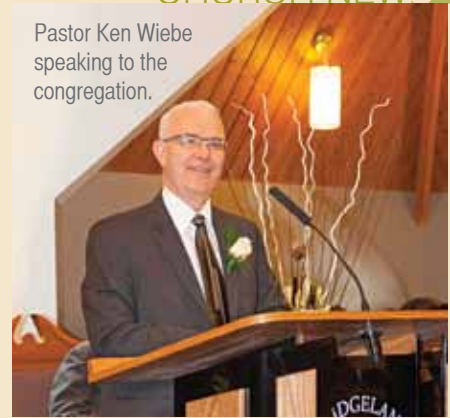
Another community program offered by the Grande Prairie Church and lead by Kip Kurylo, Head Elder, is a weekly prayer and Bible study time held at the local seniors lodge. The attendance has grown so much that they may soon be looking for another venue at the lodge. The participants range in age from late seventies to 100+. — *Kip Kurylo, Head Elder*



Darlene Blaney teaching the group about vegetarian cooking. *Insert:* Group of 27 in attendance.



Group gathered for prayer and Bible study at the seniors lodge.



Pastor Ken Wiebe speaking to the congregation.

## Bridgeland Church Dedication Service

The Bridgeland Adventist Church held a dedication service on June 14-15, 2013 to dedicate their church to the Lord. Ken Wiebe, the Alberta Conference President, was in attendance to lead out in a dedicatory prayer for this event. The church was filled with members and their family and friends who came to participate in and share the excitement of the occasion. Guest speaker, Pastor Easton G. Marks, delivered two powerful messages during the weekend. In the evening of the 15th, there was a celebratory concert which highlighted the many groups who have passed through the Bridgeland Church over the years.



Choir singing at the Bridgeland Adventist Church.



Group gathered for dedication service at the Bridgeland Adventist Church.

Photos by Glen Salls.

## Edmonton Spanish Central Church Celebrates 25 Years

On Saturday November 30, 2013 members, friends, and invited guests gathered at the Edmonton Spanish Central Seventh-day Adventist Church for a special celebration commemorating 25 years of worship, fellowship, prayers and blessings. It was a memorable day where the Lord's name was uplifted through special music, remembering miracles, pictures of the pioneers, and a glimpse of the history of the church, followed by a fellowship lunch.



Edmonton Spanish Central Church.



Pastor Samuel Manzano.

## Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant

On October 20, 2013 approximately 60 dedicated lay members, including five pastors, traveled to Fort Saskatchewan to conduct a community interest survey and distribute Bible enrollment cards to 2500 homes. There have now been 82 requests for Bible studies received. With 8000 homes in Fort Saskatchewan, plans are being made to reach another 2500 in the near future. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. Also, on November 14, the second Bible prophecy seminar of 2013 called, "Unlocking the Prophecy Code" began with nine visitors in attendance. Some have already preregistered for upcoming seminars. There are four prophecy seminars planned for 2014.

The next project scheduled for the Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant is to mail-out 16 000 bible enrollment cards. Please pray for the Fort Saskatchewan Church Plant project and others throughout the Alberta Conference. Pastor Darrell & Lise Beaudoin can be reached at [hopeandhealing@telus.net](mailto:hopeandhealing@telus.net).

Lise Beaudoin holding survey responses.



Unlocking the Prophecy Code seminar.



October 20, 2013 Fort Saskatchewan outreach team.

# Edmonton North Children's Day

On Sabbath, November 16, 2013, the children of the Edmonton North Seventh-day Adventist Church lead out in the church service. The call to worship began by posing a question, "Who is God to you?" The microphone was passed around to the children who responded with: Special, Our Friend, Kind, Love, My Hero and Saviour. Later, instead of the traditional Scripture reading, several children got up and quoted their favorite Bible verses. When it was time for the sermon, Lisa Ndeze (6 years old) began by saying, "God is Love." This thought summed up Lisa's message as she spoke about the love of God portrayed in John 3. Lisa closed her message by reiterating that "Jesus is Love."

Next, Myra Maposah (11 years old) presented her view of who God is, focusing on Genesis 1 and the creation story. Myra's message showed how God made everything perfect in the beginning. She gave an example on the paper mâché project she is working on in school and how proud she is of her creation, in the same way God was proud of His creation. Myra wrapped up her message by showing that God saved the best for last when He made us.

The last presenter was Nvikelo Nyathi (13 years old) who focused on God's salvation. Nvikelo based most of his message on Genesis 3, where God's plan of salvation is first prophesied. He expressed our need for a Saviour and explained how God was the only one who could pay our penalty as none of us are powerful enough to save ourselves (John 10:17-18). Nvikelo concluded after referring to Titus 3:3-5 by telling of a time where he was able to save his younger brother from getting into trouble, tying this story to the point that Jesus saves us.

— Submitted by Courtney Lucas, Edmonton North Communications, [info@edmontonnorthsda.org](mailto:info@edmontonnorthsda.org)



**Clockwise:** Children of the Edmonton North Church and department leaders; Sunshine Choir singing *Ezekiel Saw De Wheel*; Myra Maposah (11 years old); Lisa Ndeze (6 years old); Nvikelo Nyathi (13 years old).

# Mamawi Atosketan Students benefit from Employer's Matching Fund & Pay Blessing Forward

A friend of Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) recently doubled his contribution to Alberta's mission school without taking another dollar from his bank account. The kind donor simply submitted an application and copy of his receipt from MANS to his employer's Charity Matching program—another tax-smart way to increase money going to God's cause.

*The gift realized by the school is actually 4 times more than the cost to the donor.*

The tax credit to the donor returns half of the donation to him, but the employer matches the original gift. The effect is that the gift realized by the school is actually four times more than the cost to the donor.

"That goes a long way for us," said

Gail Wilton, principal of MANS, when she received news of the second and unanticipated donation.

The timing was perfect: the parents, students, and staff of the school were in the midst of a bake sale to benefit the victims of typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and the more than \$400 dollars they raised for ADRA's Philippines relief effort would be matched by the Canadian Government, making the MANS impact nearly \$1,000.

"That's a lot of money for our school community to raise," observed Wilton, who credits Charissa Hawes, Grade 2 teacher and elementary vice-principal, as primary organizer and fundraiser—a part of the school's program of regular community service. Parents helped in several aspects of the sale and are proud of what their children accomplished.

Wilton also recognized the opportunity to reinforce the biblical principle of "cast your bread upon the waters, and it will return to you after many days"—a teachable moment created by a savvy and generous donor.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*At Year End, many employers will match the donations employees make to a charity. Guidelines vary, but schools are often a favourite charity for employers.*

**Year End Giving Tips**

1. Giving Marketable Securities (shares) directly to the Church give you a bigger tax receipt than if you cash the shares in and give the proceeds. The Church also receives a larger gift.
2. Donating a partial interest in your home can provide you with a significant tax credit and refund without changing anything in your use of your home during your life. The tax credit can be used immediately or carried.



MANS' Community Service curriculum includes a variety of outreach activities—Students of the Mamawi Atosketan Grade 2 class made posters to promote the sale of their contributions to the November school-wide bake sale that raised more than \$400 for Typhoon Haiyan victims in the Philippines.

**Alberta Conference  
Planned Giving | Philanthropy**  
Putting God First and Last



Lynn McDowell, LLB & Certified Specialist in Planned Giving  
Director of Planned Giving | Philanthropy  
Alberta Conference

# Announcements

**The 2014 Sunset Calendar** is now available online at [www.albertaadventist.ca/downloads](http://www.albertaadventist.ca/downloads). Printed copies have been shipped to each church.

**Children's Sabbath School Materials Needed:** The Edmonton North Children's Ministry department is looking for teaching material for their lower division Sabbath School including any three year cycle material and My Bible First. These items will be used locally and for overseas children in need. For more information, please contact Skha at [mamzi@mail.com](mailto:mamzi@mail.com).

**Shift your 2013 tax dollars to God's Cause:** Would you like to help a child go to Foothills summer camp, support evangelism in your hometown, or expand the worship space of a growing congregation? You can specify the use, and employ some little-known donation methods to multiply what you can do for God in this Conference, including your own congregation. Check out two of these methods illustrated by the "Moses Strategy" insert at your local church, and contact Lynn McDowell for more information at [lmcdowell@albertaadventist.ca](mailto:lmcdowell@albertaadventist.ca).

**Women's Retreat 2014:** Save the date for the 2014 Women's Retreat which is taking place April 11-13, 2014. Special Guest Speaker is Elizabeth Talbot. I was recently blessed by a devotional message presented by Pastor Elizabeth Talbot at the NAD meetings last month. The presentation is entitled, "The Core" and it can be viewed at [www.hopetv.org/watch/?id=2849103407001](http://www.hopetv.org/watch/?id=2849103407001).

**CHANGE School of Evangelism classes are beginning April 28, 2014 and continuing until July 27, 2014.** Online classes are commencing January

2014. For more information about CHANGE School of Evangelism and to register for upcoming classes, please contact Pastor Sandra Silva by email at [ssilva@albertaadventist.ca](mailto:ssilva@albertaadventist.ca) or phone (403) 342-5044, ext. 216.

Winter is now here and planning has begun for the SAGE Alberta Winter Outing in the Kananaskis area. If you're a senior (50+) and are interested in attending this SAGE Alberta event, please contact Darlene Reimche at [dreimche@albertaadventist.ca](mailto:dreimche@albertaadventist.ca) or phone (403) 342-5044, ext. 206.



**CUC,  
CANADA'S  
SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST  
UNIVERSITY**

MARCUS PAUL, 2<sup>ND</sup>. YEAR  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

**CANADIAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**WE ARE AFFORDABLE!**  
CUC is approximately 20 to 50 percent less than other Seventh-day Adventist universities and colleges in the USA.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**  
With over 25 Campus Ministries programs, there are countless opportunities to serve. Short term or one-year student missionary trips are also available.

**FULLY ACCREDITED**  
Over 20 fully accredited bachelor degree programs including Biology, Business, Education, Music, Psychology, Religious Studies, and much more...

 **CANADIAN  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE**

5415 COLLEGE AVENUE • LACOMBE, AB • T4L 2E5      [www.cauc.ca](http://www.cauc.ca) • 1.800.661.8129 • [admissions@cauc.ca](mailto:admissions@cauc.ca)

Educating  
children  
and youth  
for time  
and eternity



Alberta Conference  
Office of Education  
[www.albertasdaedu.org](http://www.albertasdaedu.org)  
[office@albertasdaedu.org](mailto:office@albertasdaedu.org)



  
**Adventist Education**  
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE 